

Section 10 Significance Assessments

The inventory survey investigation and documentation of the study area's archaeological cultural resources have provided sufficient information for evaluations of significance (see Section 7.4 and the following discussion). Cultural resource significance is evaluated and expressed as eligibility for listing on the National and/or Hawai'i Register of Historic Places (National/Hawai'i Register). To be considered eligible for listing on the National and/or Hawai'i Register a cultural resource should possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meet one or more of the following broad cultural/historic significance criteria (36 CFR 60.4 and HAR §13-275-6):

- A Reflects major trends or events in the history of the state or nation.
- B Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Excellent example of a site type/work of a master.
- D Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
- E (Hawai'i Register only) has cultural significance to an ethnic group, including, but not limited to, religious structures, burials, and traditional cultural properties.

As discussed in Section 1.2, cultural resources are the physical remains and/or geographic locations that reflect the activity, heritage, and/or beliefs of ethnic groups, local communities, states, and/or nations. Generally, they are at least 50 years old, although there are exceptions, and include buildings and structures; groupings of buildings or structures (historic districts); certain objects; archaeological artifacts, features, sites, and/or deposits; groupings of archaeological sites (archaeological districts); and, in some instances, natural landscape features and/or geographic locations of cultural significance. The current archaeological inventory survey addresses only archaeological resources (architectural properties and natural landscape features of possible cultural significance are not addressed here).

In federal historic preservation legislation, significance determinations (expressed as eligibility to the National Register) are generally made by a federal agency official in consultation with the SHPO. Under Hawai'i State historic preservation legislation, significance determinations (expressed as eligibility to the Hawai'i Register) result when a state agency official's significance assessment is approved by SHPD, or when SHPD itself makes a significance determination for cultural resource. The following significance recommendations for archaeological cultural resources are included in this AIS report for the review and concurrence of SHPD, per the project's PA.

As summarized in Table 21, below, both archaeological resources (SIHP # 50-80-13-7420 and SIHP # 50-80-13-7421) identified within the Airport Section 3 AIS study area are recommended National/Hawai'i Register eligible under significance Criterion D, for their information potential. Both are older than 50 years. Both are buried beneath thick fill deposits and are not to be confused with surficial, in-use or remnant, buildings and structures. These archaeological resources maintain integrity of location, design, materials, and potentially of workmanship (if more of these buried deposits were to be exposed). They have provided, and

can potentially provide additional, information related to the geographic distribution/extent, materials, and construction methods of these mid-twentieth roads and infrastructure remains. The geographic information can be used to supplement and validate information available from historic maps and archaeological information on feature materials and characteristics inform on construction methods. This information has been recorded in the various test excavations where these historic features were documented in the form of the geographic locations of these deposits and the materials and characteristics of their construction. There is potential for additional information from similar untested deposits in the vicinity.

However, the cultural resources are buried and their surroundings have been completely altered by modern development since their time of construction and period of use. For example, the massive construction of the H-1 Viaduct within SIHP# 50-80-13-7420, and the considerable construction of Honolulu International Airport within SIHP# 50-80-13-7421, which completely altered the surrounding environment from when these historic features were originally constructed and used. Accordingly these features do not maintain the integrity of setting, feeling, and association that might convey their significance under any other significance criteria of the Hawai'i or National Register of Historic Places. Both SIHP# 50-80-13-7420 and 50-80-13-7421 are recommended Hawai'i/National Register-eligible under Criterion D, exclusively for their data potential.

Table 21. Archaeological Cultural Resource Significance and Mitigation Recommendations

Identified Archaeological Cultural Resources	Description	Function	Test Excavations	Criteria	Mitigation Recommendation
SIHP # 50-80-13-7420 Features 1, 2, and 3: remnants of mid-twentieth century roadway network	Buried asphalt former road surface	Transportation (vehicular)	T-015, T-017, and T-018	D	On-call archaeological monitoring
SIHP # 50-80-13-7421 Features 1, 2, and 3: remnants of WWII military warehouse foundations and related infrastructure	Buried concrete slabs and compacted crushed coral surfaces	Foundations for warehouses and the storage and transportation of military hardware	T-021, T-022, T-023, T-024, T-025, T-026, T-042, and T-046	D	On-call archaeological monitoring